

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 10665

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MASS, CG, BE, FR, US
SUBJECT: COORDINATION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR ZAIRE

REF: (A) STATE 302692; (B) CZAMISH 301525Z NOV 76

1. REFTEL B ADDRESSED THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE ZAIRIAN ARMY
STEMMING FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROCKWELL RECOMMENDATIONS. GEN.
BABIA PLANS TO DEPLOY THE US-EQUIPPED MECHANIZED DIVISION IN
THE SHABA REGION OF ZAIRE. HE HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT
THE NEED FOR INCREASING THE TRAINING CAPACITY OF THE ZAIRIAN
ARMY TO REDUCE THE TRAINING TIME OF FAZ PERSONNEL. SINCE
BELGIUM, FRANCE, AND THE US ARE ALL INVOLVED IN TRAINING AND
EQUIPPING GOZ MILITARY FORCES, THE FOLLOWING POSSIBLE DIVISION
OF LABOR IS OFFERED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION DURING BILATERAL
DISCUSSIONS.

2. BELGIUM:

A) GOB CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AS IT HAS IN THE
PAST BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS AT TRAINING
SCHOOLS. IN THIS REGARD DDN IS PLANNING TO ESTABLISH IN-COUNTRY
OFFICER BASIC BRANCH SCHOOLS IN MID-CY 77 AND TO INCREASE THE
OUTPUT OF THE OFFICER CANDIDATES SCHOOL TO APPROXIMATELY 400
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PER COURSE. ACCORDINGLY, A GREATER TRAINING ADVISORY EFFORT IS
AN URGENT REQUIREMENT THAT COULD LOGICALLY BE FULFILLED BY
THE BELGIANS.

B) ADDITIONALLY THE GOZ NAVY LACKS TRAINED PERSONNEL AND
TRAINING FACILITIES. SINCE THE BELGIAN NAVY'S PRIMARY FUNCTION IS
COASTAL PATROL/MINESWEEPING, BELGIUM APPEARS TO BE LOGICAL SOURCE

TO BOTH UPGRADE THE TRAINING FACILITIES AND PROVIDE INSTRUCTOR PERSONNEL.

C) THE GENDARMERIE IS ADMINISTERED AS A COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH A MAJOR ROLE OF INTELLIGENCE REPORTING. A SERIOUS COMMUNICATIONS DEFICIENCY EXISTS TO THE EXTENT THEY ARE UNABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION. AS BELGIUM'S MATERIAL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL, EFFORTS IN THIS AREA WOULD ASSIST MATERIALLY IN INSURING INTERNAL STABILITY AND IN EARLY WARNING OF EXTERNAL PROVACATION.

3. FRANCE:

A) GOF IS PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE FAZA MIRAGE PROGRAM. THE FRENCH HAVE AGREED TO RELOCATE THE MIRAGES FROM N'DJILI TO KAMINA PROVIDED GOZ ACCOMPLISHES CERTAIN MINIMAL IMPROVEMENTS. THE KAMINA BASING PLAN IS OPERATIONALLY MORE RATIONAL. REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE RESTORING/STABILIZING THE BASE WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES, RESURFACING ONE RUNWAY AND UPGRADING THE NAVIGATIONAL AIDS TO SERVE ALL WEATHER HIGH-SPEED JET AIRCRAFT. SINCE THESE NEEDS ARE TIED TO THE MIRAGE PROGRAM, BELIEVE FRANCE SHOULD MAKE INCREASED EFFORT BY PROVIDING TECHNICIANS/FUNDS FOR RAPID COMPLETION OF TASKS. FRANCE CAN ALSO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN IN-COUNTRY BASIC PILOT TRAINING SCHOOL TO BE LOCATED AT KAMINA. NEEDS IN THIS AREA FOCUS ON ORGANIZATION AND PROVISION OF INSTRUCTOR PERSONNEL UNTIL FAZA OBTAINS SELF-SUFFICIENCY. SINCE A PORTION OF THE GRADUATES WOULD BE GOING INTO MIRAGES, THE ASSOCIATION WOULD BE BENEFICIAL.

B) WORTH NOTING THAT GOZ HAS HIRED THREE EX-BELGIAN AIR FORCE PILOTS TO ACT AS INSTRUCTORS IN USG-PROVIDED CESSNA 150'S. THE LACK OF INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED JET TRAINING AIRCRAFT
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WILL PRECLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TOTAL FAZA CAPABILITY UNTIL SUCH AIRCRAFT ARE OBTAINED. AN INTERMEDIATE SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR FRANCE AND THE USG TO SHARE IN THE TRAINING OF ZAIRIAN PILOTS IN CONUS AND FRANCE. IN THIS REGARD WE HAVE PROGRAMMED, AS GRANT, A TOTAL OF 14 SPACES FOR CONUS UNDERGRADUATE PILOT TRAINING OVER THE NEXT TWO FISCAL YEARS. FUNDAMENTAL FLIGHT INSTRUCTION AT KAMINA FOLLOWED BY THE FULL US OR FRENCH COURSE WOULD PROVIDE A CADRE OF HIGHLY-TRAINED YOUNG PILOTS TO SUPPORT FAZA OPERATIONAL AND TRAINING NEEDS.

C) AT THE PRESENT TIME, FRANCE ALSO HAS A TEAM IN ZAIRE ASSISTING WITH PANHARD ARMORED CARS. ZAIRIAN DEFENSE STRATEGY EVOLVES AROUND A THREE "POLE" CONCEPT WITH A GROUND DIVISION TO BE LOCATED IN EACH POLE. POLE I (KINSHASA-BAS ZAIRE), IN WHICH THE PANHARDS ARE LOCATED, ALSO CONTAINS A VARIETY OF CHINESE AND NORTH KOREAN EQUIPMENT. THE NK AND PRC ADVISERS HAVE DEPARTED AND FOLLOW-ON SUPPORT FOR THE EQUIPMENT THEY LEFT BEHIND IS QUESTIONABLE. FRANCE COULD PLAY A ROLE IN INTEGRATING THIS WIDE VARIETY OF EQUIPMENT INTO A DIVISIONAL

SIZE FORCE AND BY PROVIDING MINIMAL ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT TO FLESH OUT THE DIVISION STRUCTURE.

4. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH CHIEF ZAMISH, COL. PLENARD, BELGIAN MILITARY ATTACHE IN KINSHASA, SAID COMPOSITION OF THE BELGIAN DELEGATION WOULD BE:

A) MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, MR. VANDENBOYENANTS; OR CHEF DE CABINET OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, GEN. BASTOGNE.

B) DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF FONOFF (FORMERLY DAVIGNON).

C) DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, FONOFF, MR. LE BRUN.

PLENARD STATED THAT HE ALSO WOULD BE IN ATTENDANCE REPRESENTING THE BELGIAN VIEW FROM KINSHASA. HE SAID BELGIAN IMPRESSION AT THIS TIME IS THAT USG WILL PROPOSE THAT IT FURNISH EQUIPMENT WHILE BELGIANS FURNISH INSTRUCTORS FOR USG EQUIPMENT.
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